







Claims 2-6 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '292 WO reference in view of Shaldon et al. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot in view of the present amendment and should therefore be withdrawn. More specifically, neither of these cited references overcomes the deficiencies noted above, namely, that the claimed invention is a standalone module as opposed to an entire hemodiafiltration apparatus that has its own control unit that functions in the claimed manner of regulating flow of fluids within the module itself so as to influence the flow of substitution fluid.

In sum, these references do not overcome the deficiencies noted above and therefore, fail to disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Claim 48 has been added and Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claim 48. Claim 48 is similar to amended claim 2 and therefore should be allowed for the same reasons recited above as to why amended claim 2 should be allowed.

**Claims 38-46 stand allowed.**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: July 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By

Edward J. Ellis

Registration No.: 40,389

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 753-6237 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant